

I yield the floor.

Mr. REID. I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. REID. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. REID. Madam President, the Senator from Pennsylvania is still on the floor, and I wonder how long he wishes to speak on the bill. Senator BYRD is here.

Mr. SPECTER. I thank the Senator from Nevada for his inquiry.

During the course of my remarks, I abbreviated them and cut them short. As I have said to the Senator, I do not appear very often to ask for time. I see Senator BYRD approaching.

In response to the Senator from Nevada, there was one other line of contention which I had intended to make. I can make it in a moment or two.

Mr. REID. Madam President, I yield to the Senator from Pennsylvania 4 minutes.

Mr. SPECTER. That will do it. When the Senator says a minute or 2—my remarks are easily in excess of 4 minutes but I can limit them to 4 minutes.

The other consideration which I had intended to offer in the course of the remarks I have just made, in a broader focus beyond the confines of the \$20 billion debt, is the issue of what is happening day in and day out in Iraq where we are spending, it is estimated, some \$4 billion a month and we are sustaining casualties and fatalities which are very devastating for our country, the men and women in the armed services who are being wounded, suffering fatalities, their relatives and friends.

If we move ahead with greater speed, which we will be able to do on a grant instead of a loan, it may well be that we can cut down the time we will be in Iraq, that it will facilitate the starting of electricity and the infrastructure of Iraq so we can move out and allow the Iraqi Government to take over. With the very heavy costs in casualties, fatalities and dollars, the speed that these grants can help is another factor in consideration so that on the totality of the matter in the broader picture, I am prepared to defer to the President's judgment on this matter, on this vote.

The issue has created enough focus so that the administration will know when the additional funding is to be undertaken that there will be a very strong sentiment in the Congress that Iraqi resources ought to pay for the rebuilding of Iraq and that this decision to have grants instead of loans will further support the good faith and bonafides of the United States that we have not gone into Iraq for their oil but have gone into Iraq to liberate the Iraqi people from the despotism of Saddam Hussein and to build a democracy in that country.

I yield the floor.

Mr. REID. Madam President, I yield back our time for morning business so we can get to the bill.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. All time is yielded back.

CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Morning business is closed.

EMERGENCY SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATIONS FOR IRAQ AND AFGHANISTAN SECURITY AND RECONSTRUCTION ACT, 2004

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will resume consideration of S. 1689, which the clerk will report.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 1689) making emergency supplemental appropriations for Iraq and Afghanistan security and reconstruction for the fiscal year ending September 30th, 2004, and for other purposes.

Pending:

Byrd amendment No. 1818, to impose a limitation on the use of sums appropriated for the Iraq Relief and Reconstruction Fund.

Byrd/Durbin amendment No. 1819, to prohibit the use of Iraq Relief and Reconstruction Funds for low priority activities that should not be the responsibility of U.S. taxpayers, and shift \$600 million from the Iraq Relief and Reconstruction Fund to Defense Operations and Maintenance, Army, for significantly improving efforts to secure and destroy conventional weapons, such as bombs, bomb materials, small arms, rocket propelled grenades, and shoulder-launched missiles, in Iraq.

Bond/Mikulski amendment No. 1825, to provide additional VA Medical Care Funds for the Department of Veterans Affairs.

Dubin amendment No. 1837, to ensure that a Federal employee who takes leave without pay in order to perform certain service as a member of the uniformed services or member of the National Guard shall continue to receive pay in an amount which, when taken together with the pay and allowances such individual is receiving for such service, will be no less than the basic pay such individual would then be receiving if no interruption in employment had occurred.

Reed/Hagel amendment No. 1834, to increase the end strength of the Army and to structure the additional forces for constabulary duty. (By 45 yeas to 52 nays (Vote No. 382), Senate failed to table the amendment.)

Feingold amendment No. 1852, to enable military family members to take leave to attend to deployment-related business and tasks.

Daschle amendment No. 1854, to achieve the most effective means of reconstructing Iraq and to reduce the future costs to the American taxpayer of such reconstruction by ensuring broad-based international cooperation for this effort.

Feinstein amendment No. 1848, to require reports on the United States strategy for relief and reconstruction efforts in Iraq, and to limit the availability of certain funds for those efforts pending determinations by the President that the objectives and deadlines for those efforts will be substantially achieved.

Nelson (FL) amendment No. 1858, to set aside from certain amounts available for the

Iraq Relief and Reconstruction Fund, \$10,000,000 for the Family Readiness Program of the National Guard.

Reid (for Landrieu) amendment No. 1859, to promote the establishment of an Iraq Reconstruction Finance Authority and the use of Iraqi oil revenues to pay for reconstruction in Iraq.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Alaska.

Mr. STEVENS. Madam President, we urge Senators to contact the managers of this bill to try to work out a time when their amendments might be considered, and to see if we have any possibility of dealing with the several amendments at one time. We tried to do that last night with regard to reporting requirements, and I stated to the Senate it is our hope we can blend all of the reporting requirements along with those that are already in the House bill and work out a logical sequence for the reporting and the activities of an inspector general, if that is required as far as the Iraq operation is concerned.

We will be hopeful that today we can look at—there are additional amendments being suggested on the list that was approved last night for reporting requirements, and I would be pleased to consider taking any of those and adding them to the package that is already in the bill for reporting requirements and for details regarding the inspector general. But my purpose for seeking the floor right now is to urge Senators to contact the managers of the bill, and let us work out some logical sequence in terms of the amendments that are pending or will be offered.

This is going to be a long day. We still have the commitment that we will do our utmost to finish by tomorrow. I congratulate my good friend from Nevada, the Democratic assistant leader, for all his efforts in getting us to where we are now in terms of knowing the amendments that are possible to be considered.

But within the timeframe we have, we cannot consider them all without really a great deal of consideration on both sides in terms of the amount of time a Senator takes to explain the amendment and particularly in terms of Senators being willing to cooperate with us to blend amendments so we can deal with one subject maybe in one or two amendments. That is possible. I look forward to working with Senator REID, who is actively involved in trying to reduce the number of these amendments, as well as I am, with our joint staffs.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. ENSIGN). The Senator from West Virginia.

AMENDMENT NO. 1818

Mr. BYRD. Mr. President, I call up amendment No. 1818.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The amendment is pending under the previous order.

Mr. BYRD. Very well. I thank the Chair.